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June 19, 2019

Gang Member Sentenced to Life for Killing Rapper

A gang member was sentenced today to 50 years to life in state prison for fatally shooting an up-and-coming rapper known as Kid Cali, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

On Oct. 31, 2018, a jury found Kenny Birdine aka "Lil' Rampage" (dob 9/22/96) guilty of one count of first-degree murder.

Deputy District Attorney Amy Murphy of the Hardcore Gang Division said the jury also found true allegations that Birdine used a handgun in the killing and he committed the crime in association with a criminal street gang.

The defendant, a member of the Inglewood Family Bloods, shot Justin Lishey, 30, at close range multiple times, including as he fell to the ground at a mansion party in Granada Hills on Aug. 20, 2016, according to evidence presented at the trial. Birdine believed the victim was a Rollin' 90s gang member. Lishey was not a documented gang member and he did nothing to provoke the murder, the prosecutor said.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department, Valley Bureau.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.